

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

## New Report on Arctic Climate Change

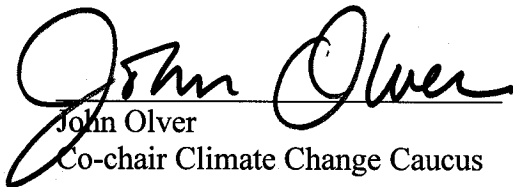
Dear Colleague:

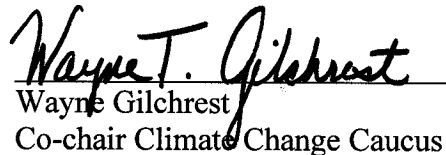
November 1, 2004

We would like to draw your attention to an article that appeared in this Sunday's Washington Post entitled, "Report Sounds Alarm on Pace of Arctic Climate Change." The new report is scheduled to be released Nov. 9. Its summary findings further illustrate the urgency with which we must pursue climate change policy.

We urge you to join us and cosponsor HR 4067, the Climate Stewardship Act. For more information, please contact Edith Thompson in Rep. Gilchrest's office (5-5311) or Abbie Meador in Rep. Olver's office (5-5335).

Sincerely,

  
John Olver  
Co-chair Climate Change Caucus

  
Wayne Gilchrest  
Co-chair Climate Change Caucus

## Report Sounds Alarm on Pace of Arctic Climate Change

Warmth, Glacial Melt Linked to Humans; Wide-Ranging Effect on Environment and Industry Forecast

By Juliet Eilperin and Rick Weiss, Washington Post Staff Writers  
Sunday, October 31, 2004; Page A08

The most comprehensive international assessment of Arctic climate change has concluded that Earth's upper latitudes are experiencing unprecedented increases in temperature, glacial melting and weather pattern changes, with most of those changes attributable to the human generation of greenhouse gases from automobiles, power plants and other sources.

The 144-page report is the work of a coalition of eight nations that have Arctic territories -- including the United States, which has hosted and financed the coalition's secretariat at the University of Alaska.

The findings, which reflect four years of study, confirm earlier evidence that the Arctic is warming far more quickly than the earth overall, with temperature increases in some northern regions exceeding by tenfold the average 1 degree Fahrenheit increase experienced on Earth in the past 100 years.

"For the past 30 years, there's been a dramatic increase in temperature and a decrease in the thickness of ice," said Robert W. Corell, a senior fellow with the American Meteorological Society and chairman of the Arctic climate impact assessment group, which produced the report.

Those changes are already having practical impacts, including a reduction in the number of days each year that the tundra is hard enough to be driven on or drilled safely for oil. They can be expected to have even greater impact in the near future, the report predicts, in terms of agriculture, wildlife ranges for terrestrial and marine plants and animals, and global shoreline flooding because of increases in sea level caused by melting ice.

Warming could benefit certain sectors, the report said, by easing marine shipping and improving access to offshore oil and gas resources in the Arctic.